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## **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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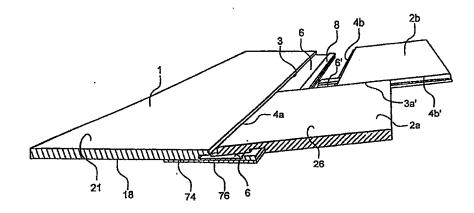
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## (54) A method for laying and mechanically joining floor panels and a method for producing a floor

(57) The invention relates to a system for laying and mechanically joining building panels, especially thin, hard, floating floors. Adjacent joint edges (3, 4) of two panels (1, 2) engage each other to provide a first mechanical connection locking the joint edges (3, 4) in a first direction (D1) perpendicular to the principal plane of the panels. In each joint, there is further provided a strip (6) which is integrated with one joint edge (3) and which projects behind the other joint edge (4). The strip

(6) has an upwardly protruding locking element (8) engaging in a locking groove (14) in the rear side (16) of the other joint edge (4) to form a second mechanical connection locking the panels (1, 2) in a second direction (D2) parallel to the principal plane of the panels and at right angles to the joint. Both the first and the second mechanical connection allow mutual displacement of joined panels (1, 2) in the direction of the joint.







## **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number EP 99 20 3328

	DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
ategory	Citation of document with ir of relevant pass	dication, where appropriate, ages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Ci.6)		
<b>1,</b> P	WO 93 13280 A (JUNC 8 July 1993 (1993-0 * abstract, details * page 4, line 20 - figures 1-3 *	1,2,3,14 *	1-12	E04F15/14 E04F15/02 E04F13/08 E04F15/04		
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	The present search report has b	een drawn up for all claims				
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner		
	THE HAGUE	15 December 199	9 Ayii	ter, J		
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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

## ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 99 20 3328

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

15-12-1999

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